

## **"CUTICLE CUTTER"**

The present invention refers to a cuticle cutter of the scissors type.

### **State of the art**

Conventional cuticle cutters of the scissors type are presented to  
5 the user as undismountable relatively small instruments and when it is  
necessary to sharpen the cutter blades or carry out any other form of  
maintenance, which is relatively common, it is necessary to send them to a  
qualified professional, which is expensive and time consuming, or merely  
throw them away and buy a new device. This is obviously a disadvantage.

10 In addition, in beauty salons it is necessary to carry out complete  
cleaning and/or sterilisation of the cutters between use and this with time  
damages the handle parts of the devices. Since the cutter blades and not the  
handles enter into contact with the customer (user), such deep cleaning or  
sterilisation of the handles is not necessary.

15 Also in beauty salons, storage of cutters as complete instruments  
is difficult due to their complicated shape and there is a considerable risk that  
the cutting edges become damaged and/or that the handles themselves,  
especially when made of plastic material, may be damaged by the cutter  
blades. In addition to this, if the cutting edges are damaged or worn beyond  
20 recuperation, the whole instrument has to be thrown away even though the  
handles might still be in a perfect state.

### **Summary of the present invention**

According to the present invention the above problems can be  
entirely overcome by means of a scissors-type cuticle cutter or the like  
25 comprising a first cutter blade and handle combination pivoted to a second  
cutter blade and handle combination by means of a pivot element, in which  
the cutter blade and the handle of each combination are releasably attached  
to each other.

In the presently preferred embodiment of the invention in which  
30 each cutter blade consists of a cutting end, a central pivot portion through  
which said pivot element passes and a spigot, each handle is formed with a  
substantially longitudinal passage into which the spigot of the associated

cutter blade is received and resilient releasable attachment means are provided to maintain the spigot in the passage.

It is preferred that each attachment means comprises a spring element formed with a protuberance mounted laterally in said passage and a lateral recess formed in the spigot of the respective cutter blade. The lateral recess receives the protuberance to maintain the cuticle cutter in a mounted configuration and the spring element may be flexed to permit separation of the cutter blade from the handle on the application of a longitudinal separating force between the handle and the cutter blade.

It is particularly desirable that the separation of the blades from the handles is effected simply and safely. In the preferred embodiment each said handle has an axially extending outer portion which, in the mounted configuration of the cuticle cutter, extends as far as said central pivot portions of the cutter blades. With this arrangement, on opening the cutter to a maximum extent, a laterally outer surface of each cutter blade may engage an inner surface of the axially extending outer portion of the handle associated with the other cutter blade to produce the longitudinal separating force between the blades and their associated handles.

#### **Short description of the drawings**

The present invention will be better understood from the following specific description, given by way of example, of the presently preferred embodiment, reference being made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a side view of the presently preferred embodiment of a cuticle cutter according to the present invention, with the cutter in a cutting position (half open) and with the handles in longitudinal section so as to permit visualisation of the interconnection between the blades and the handles;

Figure 2 is a view similar to that of Figure 1, but with the cutter fully open to a point where separation of the blades from the handles is effected; and

Figure 3 is a view of the blades pivoted to each other, after removal.

#### **Specific description of the preferred embodiment**

Referring now to the drawings, Figure 1 shows a view of the preferred embodiment of a cuticle cutter in accordance with the present

invention. As can be seen, the cutter comprises two blade-handle combinations comprising metal cutter blades 1 and 1' and plastic handles 2 and 2'. Cutter blade 1 comprises a blade end 3, a pivot portion 4 and a spigot 5. Similarly, cutter blade 1' comprises a blade end 3', a pivot portion 4' and a spigot 5'. The pivot portions 4 and 4' of the blades 1 and 1' are pivoted by means of a pivot element 6 in the form of a screw or rivet. It will be observed that each spigot 5 or 5' is formed with a lateral semicircular recess 7 or 7'.

Handles 2 and 2' are formed with longitudinal passageways 8 and 8' that are adapted to receive the spigot or handle ends 5 and 5' of the blades. Each handle 2 or 2' has a lateral opening providing access to the respective passageway 8 or 8' and is provided with a shaped plug 9 or 9' so that in normal use the plug can be snap fitted into and to close the opening. Each handle is also provided with a spring element 10 or 10' designed to fit into the cavity formed in the lateral opening. The spring elements 10 and 10' are basically flat strips of spring metal or the like with a respective semicircular protuberances corresponding to the recesses 7 and 7' in the blade spigots 5 and 5'.

Each handle 2 or 2' at its blade end is provided with an inwardly inclined end surface 11 or 11', the passageway 8 or 8' being bored into such surface. The laterally outer side of the blade end of each handle 2 or 2', however, is formed with an extension 12 or 12' that, in the assembled configuration of the cutter as shown in Figure 1, extends to a point approximately opposite the pivot element 6 of the blades.

In order to effect initial assembly of the cuticle cutter shown in Figure 1, the spring elements 10 and 10' are placed in the cavities formed behind the lateral openings in the handles 2 and 2', after which the plug elements are snapped into place. The handles 2 and 2' are then fitted to the blade arrangement (see Figure 3) by inserting the spigots 5 and 5' into the respective passageways 8 and 8' and manually pressuring them longitudinally until the semicircular protuberances of spring elements 10 and 10' enter the lateral recesses 7 and 7' in the spigots, firmly retaining them in place.

The cuticle cutter can then be used normally, a conventional spring element 13 mounted on handle 2 providing resistance during trimming.

When it is desired to clean the blades, between users, it is sufficient to open the cutters to the maximum (see Figure 2) until the extensions 12 and 12' abut the laterally outer sides of the pivot portions 4 of the blades. Further forcible opening of the cutter results in a longitudinal separating force being applied to the blades with the result that the spigots 5 and 5' are pulled outwardly until engagement between the semicircular protuberances of spring elements 10 and 10' and the recesses 7 and 7' is lost. The blades can then be easily removed without any manual force and submitted to sterilisation and/or sharpening procedures. They can then be stored prior to further use.

It should be noted that no manual contact with the blades is necessary in order to release them from the handles, physical contact only being required to remove them to the location where they are to be cleaned or sterilised. Alternatively, if the blades are too worn or damaged for further use, they may be substituted for new ones without having also to throw away the respective handles.